

## **2012 LEI QUEEN PŌMAIKA'INOKEAKUA LENORE KLEIN**



'O Pōmaika'inokeakua Lenore Klein ko'u inoa piha. My name is Pōmaika'inokeakua but my friends and family call me Pōmaika'i or Pōmai for short. I am proud to say that I was born and raised in Waimānalo, Hawai'i. I am 25 years old and have five siblings. My mother is Marvalee Healani Klein and my father is Wallace Klein. Hawaiian culture has been the center and focus of my life for as long as I can remember. I have been dancing hula since the age of five with Kumu Hula Ellen Castillo and more recently under the direction of Kumu Hula Keano Kaupu and Lono Padilla and am fluent in the Hawaiian language having attended Hawaiian immersion schools for most of my life. Hula has been for me not only an avenue that has led to many opportunities in my life, but it has also become my passion and a part of what defines me as a person. I have completed my Associate degree in Liberal Arts from Kapi'olani Community College and I currently work as a professional Hula and Polynesian dancer.



Through hula and my Hawaiian Immersion education I have not only gained experience in lei making but also acquired knowledge of native plants and their uses and the significance they have to hula. I have experience in making many different types of lei, including kui, wili, hilo, hili, humupapa and the hīpu'u styles of lei making.



When I was 20 years old I began competing in pageants in the Miss Hawai'i system. Pageantry was not something that I had ever seen myself doing or set as a goal for myself, but rather the opportunity presented itself before me. In 2010 I decided to enter the Miss Hawaiian Islands Pageant and was honored to be chosen as the winner and go on to represent Hawai'i at the Miss South Pacific Pageant in Papua New Guinea.





My hobbies include dancing, music, traveling, reading, learning about different cultures, and enjoying the company of family and friends.

### **FIRST PRINCESS KALAI SINA CHOW**

Aloha, I am Kalai Sina Chow, the daughter of Gary Kamauoha and Macey Hoakalei Hina Kamauu. I hail from the hills of Papakōlea. I am married to Kaiana Kamakou Chow and we are blessed with our 9 month old son, Elama Tamatoa.



My first hula debut was at the age of 2 on Ala Moana Center stage. My Kumu was my grandmother, the late Hoakalei Kamauu. Hula is a family tradition that began with my great-grand aunt, Iolani Luahine. I continue to dance with Hula Halau o Hoakalei under the direction of my mother, Hoakalei Hina.



The art of lei making and the hula go hand in hand, each teaching you patience and perseverance. My mentor was my uncle, the late Poni Kamauu. With his big, gentle hands he always made it look so easy. He continuously referred to the ‘Ōlelo Noe‘au: "E lei kau, e lei ho‘oilō i ke aloha" - we wear our leis in the summer, we wear our leis in the winter, we wear our leis everyday for love is everlasting.

When I think of his hands, I look at my own and know that I'm on the same path to create and perpetuate. I feel that the passion of an artist, a hula dancer, a lei maker comes from the heart, but the strength of the art comes from the movement and flexibility of the hands.



Family is my inspiration and Hula is my legacy. I am the lei maker and this is my lei.

### **SECOND PRINCESS CHRISTIAN LEI U'I KAHOLOKULA**

Welina mai me ke aloha kākou mai ka lā hiki a ka lā kau. 'O wau o Lei U'i Kaholokula. No ka moku o Mano'okalani po mai au.

Aloha family and friends, my name is Lei U'i Kaholokula.



I was born on the beautiful garden isle of Kaua'i, to Robbie and Puamohala Kaholokula; both Hawaiian cultural practitioners. As a Kaholokula, my brother and I were blessed to have grown up in a household deeply nourished in Hawaiian mele, hula, and values. During my formative years, my training allowed me to tell stories of my kupuna, in the language of my ancestors expressed by embracing the art of hula and chant. Such a unique upbringing has allowed me to grow, and flourish into the young woman that stands before you today.





As a ho'opa'a and alaka'i under my mother's hālau, Hālau Mohala o ka Pua Hau Hele, I grew familiar with the protocol and kuleana that embodied hula and culture. As in all hālau, hula and lei making work hand in hand. No matter the occasion, each haumāna is charged with the responsibility and aloha that goes into assembling each lei; regardless of the style.



Though hula and mele will always be my first love, I also enjoy the outdoors. From ocean play to adventuring the high mountains, nothing is more pleasant to me than enjoying my island paradise. These activities allow me to maintain a healthy lifestyle. My appreciation for my 'āina and love for the community has encouraged me to challenge myself and strive for excellence; I remain blessed. With this mentality, I hope to represent and to strengthen the Hawaiian community.

### **PRINCESS CATELIN KAWAHINEKOA AIWOHI**

Aloha! My name is Catelin Kawahinekoha Aiwohi, daughter of Gary and Heidi Aiwohi of Wailuku. Born and raised on Maui and an alumni of Kamehameha Schools Maui, I currently attend Chaminade University where I am studying Elementary Education.



My passion for hula started at the age of five under the direction of Kumu Hula Luana Kawa'a. In 2008 I represented the State of Hawai'i to dance hula in the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Macy's Day Parade in New York. I also traveled throughout Aotearoa performing hula with the Hawaiian Ensemble. I have taught in the Ho'olauna Program, delivering activities including, 'oli, mele, and hula. Currently, I am the treasurer of the Hawaiian Club at Chaminade and assist in the production of our annual hula showcase.



Throughout my years of hula I have crafted many different types of lei. For me, the beauty of lei crafting is in the gathering of the flowers, ferns and leaves. As an intern at the Leeward Haleakalā Watershed, I worked in the forest and did research on Native plants, specifically those used for hula. Each item was picked and used because it held a significant meaning for the lei.

Lei Day is a celebration of the people in our lives and signifies the importance of reminding others that they are valued and appreciated. My Tūtū was May Day Queen on Maui and to participate in this year's Lei Day Court would continue a tradition she started.

The Lei Queen shows Ha'aha'a (humility) and is sensitive to the needs of those around her. She knows her Kuleana (responsibility) to her 'ohana and to her community. She practices



Ho'okipa (hospitality and generosity), in her every day life. Aloha 'āina (love for the land), should be evident in how she contributes to the protection and preservation of our natural resources. She carries herself with dignity and strives for excellence.

### **PRINCESS LORENE YOSHIMI GIMA**

Aloha Kākou! My name is Lorene Yoshimi Gima. My friends and family call me "Chimi," which is my nickname. My Hawaiian name is "Mālie".



I am Japanese; and, was born in Honolulu. My parents are Robert and Kay Abuel. I have three older brothers: Dwayne, Ricky, and Brian Abuel. I attended Pearl Ridge Elementary, 'Aiea Intermediate, 'Aiea High School, and Leeward Community College; where I graduated with an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts. I live in 'Aiea with my wonderful husband, Lorin, and my beautiful daughter, Cailin, who was born just last year in July.

I learned how to make ti leaf lei in high school and I've always enjoyed making them because of its simplicity. I made my first lei po'o in college from Vicky Holt-Takamine; who had taught our class how to use only the ti leaf at first, and then we added laua'e. I also know how to make simple kui style leis. Though my lei making experience is limited, I'm always willing to learn, experiment, and gain through new experiences.

I've been dancing hula since I was 8. I first learned to dance hula through my Buddhist Organization, SGI (Soka Gakkai International). I was in a hālau in high school for the Hawaiian Club. Afterwards, I never found a hālau that I felt I belonged in. I decided later to dance for SGI until I found a hālau. I have danced for and with Lopaka Kapanui, whom I consider as my Kumu. He's taught me so much about hula; and, I'm very thankful that I have him in my life as a beloved friend and Kumu.



I've always been good at making things with my hands. I enjoy arts and crafts. I also love to do charcoal drawings and paint abstract art. I hope to never lose this quality. I like to create different designs and characters for various occasions or just for fun. I will always have a passion for my creativity and hope to develop it more.

My hobbies vary from spending time with family, arts and crafts, catching up on my shows or more importantly- sleep. I really enjoy relaxing by the beach with family the most. I've never cherished relaxation as much as I do now as a new mother. Nothing beats the company of people you love and that love you just as much.

### **PRINCESS COURTNEY ELLEN LYNN KU'ULEILANI LYNCH**

Aloha, my name is Courtney Ellen Lynn Ku'uleilani Lynch. I am twenty-five years old, very outgoing and a fun-loving person. I love meeting new people and entertaining them.



I currently attend Heald College for Nursing and received my Associates Degree in nursing in July of 2011. I am continuing my education at Heald, pursuing a higher certificate in nursing. Helping people has always been a passion of mine and I love knowing that our patients feel and get better because of our care.



Ever since I can remember, I've been dancing hula. My family members say it's in one's DNA. When it comes to special talents my hands are the key to my creativity and joy in craft work. For my creativity, I thank my mom.



Learning how to make a lei was a challenge but after hard work and practice, the ability to make a beautiful, finished lei gave me a sense of confidence. Coming to hula practice and learning how to make leis made me proud to have my hula sisters supporting me and made me watchful for opportunities to support them in return.

The reason I want to become Lei Queen would be to honor my grandmother, Flo Ku'uleilani Fernandez, who was Lei Queen in 2005. She has inspired me to strive for excellence and I know it would be deeply meaningful to her if I were to follow in her footsteps. Dancing hula and embracing our Hawaiian heritage is a large part of her life and I can think of no finer way to show her how much she has shared.

Lei Day to me means old Hawaiian days. When celebrating Lei Day, we once again bring our families and halau hula together to work and uplift and support one another – to bond together as one extended, loving 'ohana. That brings back the best of the past, best of our heritage.



UPDATE: Lei U'i Kaholokula, the newly crowned Miss Kaua'i and Kawahinekoa Aiwohi, the newly crowned Miss Maui, will be competing in the Miss Hawai'i competition in June 2012. Your Lei Day Celebration 'ohana is proud of you. You go girls!





from left to right - Princess Lorene Yoshimi Gima, Second Princess Christian Lei U'i Kaholokula, 2012 Lei Queen Pōmaika'inokeakua Lenore Klein, First Princess Kalai Sina Chow, Princess Catelin Kawahinekoa Aiwohi, and Princess Courtney Ellen Lynn Ku'uleilani Lynch

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